

Serial No. 10/649,026

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Previously Presented)* A step ladder comprising
a frame including a front leg, a rear leg coupled to the front leg for pivotable movement relative to the front leg between an opened position and a collapsed position, and an alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg,
a handle,
a pivot support mount configured to support the handle for pivotable movement on the front leg about a pivot axis,
a retainer member coupled to the handle to move therewith about the pivot axis and arranged to trap a portion of the alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg between the pivot support mount and the retainer member upon movement of the handle to a predetermined position relative to the rear leg to lock the front leg to the rear leg when the front and rear legs are in the collapsed position, and
an L-shaped alignment guide immovably coupled to the front leg and configured to engage the alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg to maintain the rear leg in alignment with the front leg when the rear leg is in the collapsed position.

2. *(Previously Presented)* A step ladder comprising
a frame including a front leg and a rear leg coupled to the front leg for movement relative to the front leg between an opened position and a collapsed position,
a handle,
a pivot support mount configured to support the handle for pivotable movement on the front leg about a pivot axis,
a retainer member coupled to the handle to move therewith about the pivot axis and arranged to trap a portion of an alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg between the pivot support mount and the retainer member upon movement of the handle to a predetermined position relative to the rear leg to lock the front leg to the rear leg when the front and rear legs are in the collapsed position,
an alignment tab maintained in a fixed position relative to the rear leg and configured to engage a bottom surface of the front leg when the frame is in the collapsed position, and

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an alignment guide coupled to the pivot support mount and configured to mate with the alignment tab to maintain the rear leg in alignment with the front leg when the frame is in the collapsed position.

3. *(Original)* The step ladder of claim 2, further comprising an anchor mount coupled to the alignment tab and configured to engage a portion of the pivot support mount when the frame is in the collapsed position.

4. *(Previously Presented)* The step ladder of claim 2, wherein the alignment guide of the pivot support mount is a first alignment guide and the pivot support mount includes a second alignment guide spaced-apart from the first alignment guide, and wherein the alignment tab is positioned to lie between the first and second alignment guides of the pivot support mount when the rear leg is in the collapsed position.

5. *(Original)* The step ladder of claim 2, further comprising an alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg and formed to include the alignment tab, the alignment bracket including a base having a top wall, a bottom wall, a first side wall coupled to the top wall and the bottom wall, and a second side wall coupled to the top wall, and wherein the bottom wall, the top, bottom, first, and second side walls are formed to define an aperture configured to receive the rear leg therethrough and wherein the alignment tab is coupled to the base and is substantially in alignment with the bottom wall of the base.

6-18. *(Cancelled)*.